

Please offer my warmest respects
to your Mother and Mr. Thomas, and
Believe me, Most
truly Yours,
Saml May Jr

Ms. B. 1. 6 v. 4 no. 6
Rev. S. May - Aug - 1850

Leicester, Mass. Aug. 2. 1850.

My dear Miss Carpenter,

We have been enjoying today a very pleasant visit from your brother Russell. We are sorry it can be no longer - for he is to leave us in the morning, and is expecting to leave the country early next week. His speedy departure - which I had no thought was so near at hand - leaves me no time to write to you & others as I would. But you will rejoice with us to hear, even in few words, that the Antislavery cause is, in our sincerest belief and conviction, steadily advancing. It may truly say, as Daniel Webster so falsely said of himself, that it "takes no step backward." Its progress is marked by the increasing number & courage of its friends, & not less by the folly & madness of its foes. Even from the latter, a reluctant but not ineffectual service to the cause is obtained. Webster, the corrupt, selfish, time-serving politician, betrays his State & the interests of freedom, and is rewarded (for the time) with office; Moses Stuart, the far more guilty & hardhearted priest,

comes to pledge the Bible, - both Moses and Christ, -
to the support of Daniel Webster, and his new ^{promises} ~~pledges~~
to give back the fugitive slave to his stripes and his
degradation. But - mark! - the moral indignation of
the North has been aroused, by this false pair, as it
has scarce ever been aroused before; and what they
meant for evil, God has already overruled for good.
Webster's speech you have doubtless seen; by your
brother, I send to Mr. Estlin (from whom you will
doubtless obtain the reading of it, if you desire) a copy
of M. Stuart's double-tongued pamphlet on "Conscience
and the Constitution." - Yesterday we learned - good
news it was for August 1., the Anniversary of West India
Emancipation - that Henry Clay's "Compromise Bill" has been
defeated in the U. S. Senate, - a rebuke to that
pliant, artful & dangerous man which he will deeply
feel, but which comes too late in life to do him any good.

Your brother Russell spoke at our First of
August Celebration in Worcester ~~Anniversary~~ yesterday - a
large meeting, which would have been doubled at least
had the weather been auspicious. He spoke with much
earnestness - with many a sound thought & many an
humorous expression - and was heard with very deep

interest and hearty cheers. — I have had much conversation with him today, touching both Slavery and Anti-slavery, & a great variety of cognate topics. — It appears to me that he does not yet fully feel the wrong which Slavery does to man, in his whole being and in all his relations. He sees so many extenuating circumstances in the character, position, education, temptations of the slaveholder — so much social wrong & physical suffering elsewhere, all over the world — so much vice & degradation elsewhere, to which both white & black are subject — that, notwithstanding all his repugnance to slavery, when all the allowances are made (as above), the essential wickedness & sinfulness of holding a human being as property, subject to all the conditions of property, seem to be in great measure lost sight of. — But I am perfectly confident that his wish and purpose are to get a just & right view of this most important matter.

He thinks you have been somewhat troubled by the Circular letter of the Glasgow friends. It appears to me that a document so clearly unfair & malignant, as that ^{is}, need not occasion us a great deal of alarm or trouble. I call it unfair — most grossly so — to single out

a single writer in the Liberator (a paper notoriously open to the discussion, pro & con, of every important moral and social question, so long as that discussion is maintained in good faith), and make that the basis for judging of the character of the Liberator;— how much more, for an attack upon the American Anti-Slavery Society, which has nothing whatever to do with H. C. Wright, save as he is an earnest devoted labourer in the Anti-slavery field. — Mr. Wright's opinions are far from being the singular or new ones which some persons try to make ~~them~~^{it} appear; they are coarsely & often offensively expressed, I admit, (I regret it) but they amount to this, & they go no farther, viz. That the God he worships, the Father of Jesus Christ, He who is Love, never did & never can justify ^{Command or} the War, or Slavery, or any other oppressive & inhuman act;— that they who worship a God, who does allow & sanction these, worship a false God, a heathen idol, or a creation of their own corrupt & cruel hearts, a God whom ~~he~~ will never acknowledge. Is this shocking, unchristian, infidel? If so, I could wish to be called by those ^{names} ~~ways~~ as essential to a genuine, heartfelt reverence for God & true religion.

But I must desist. I have ^{said} not a word of what was prominent in my mind when I began to write, the publication of your Anti-Slavery Poems. My impression is, it would scarcely be advisable to undertake this with regard to any anti-slavery poems. Our experience shows that

they are not read by that class, who most need to see them, and we know that all of our practical works have met with a very slow sale. This, perhaps, may not speak altogether well for the taste of anti-slavery buyers & readers. But I shall be glad to receive any further hints or suggestions from you, & will not spare any pen in any way.

Please offer my warmest respects to

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